



Tanya Lane  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL L101 – Lower Level 7:00 P.M.

July 12, 2016

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Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Anest  
Councilor Budrejko  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett - absent  
Councilor Manke  
Councilor Marocchini  
Councilor Nagel  
Councilor Serra  
Mayor Zartarian

#### **Staff Attendees:**

Tanya Lane, Town Manager  
Police Chief Stephen Clark  
Mike D'Amato, Assistant Planner & ZEO  
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager  
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilor DelBuono moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Councilor Manke. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

None

## **V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

## **VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken)**

### **A. Fee Updates: Planning/Zoning & Zoning Board of Appeals**

Mike D'Amato said the cost of the process was \$315, and they had been publishing notices in the New Britain Herald instead of the Courant due to cost. The Crier was not used due to scheduling issues.

Councilor Marocchini said he was not comfortable with the price of \$350 but would be with the cost of \$320. Councilor Anest agreed with Councilor Marocchini and indicated if there was not a quorum that was not the fault of the applicant. The process should not be a money maker for the Town. Mr. D'Amato said that an applicant was not charged for any appeal that was made.

Mayor Zartarian asked if the consensus was to change the wording to read \$320 instead of \$350 and indicated Jamie could make that change after the vote.

Councilor Marocchini moved the following:

### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby approves changes to various fees on the Town of Newington's "Schedule of Fees and Charges" as indicated in the attached document.**

Councilor Anest seconded the motion and it passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

### **B. Discussion: Cemetery Operations**

Mayor Zartarian said there had been a lot of discussion regarding the cemetery during their meetings and on social media. He looked into regulations from other towns and found they had similar prohibitions. He indicated the problem was not with the ordinance but with the manner it had been enforced.

Councilor Marocchini suggested a sign at the entrance to let people leave their email addresses so they could be kept informed. Councilor Budrejko said the first step should be the appointment of a sexton who could then research a solution to the situation.

Councilor Nagel and Councilor DelBuono agreed with Councilor Budrejko's and Councilor Marocchini's comments. Councilor DelBuono stated it might be a good idea to add it to the Town website and to publish something in the Crier once a year to keep people informed. She did not feel there was a need for a committee to be created to look into the situation.

Councilor Anest stated some residents were concerned about not being able to leave memorabilia and that should be looked into by the sexton when appointed.

Mayor Zartarian indicated the consensus of the Council was 1) better communication 2) better oversight 3) the Town Manager to appoint a sexton.

### **C. NHS School Career Technical Program Renovations Plans & Specifications**

Mayor Zartarian said during the presentation by the BOE the auto shop area of the high school would be renovated and used for technology subjects. The cost of the project was projected to be \$2.4 million and the State would reimburse the Town almost 58 percent. Councilor DelBuono asked where the funding for

the project would be gotten from, and Mrs. Lane indicated the money would be from the Town pay as you go CIP fund.

Councilor Anest moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**Pursuant to Chapter 8, Article X, Section 8-45, Project Building Committees, of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves the plans and specifications for the Newington High School Career Technical Program Renovations Project, as approved by the School Career Technical Program Renovation Project Building Committee on June 27, 2016 and authorizes the project to proceed to bid.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Manke and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

**VII. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS (Action May Be Taken by Waiving the Rules)**  
**A. Discussion: Police Community Council**

Chief Clark gave an overview of the proposed Council to the Councilors. It would be a way to reach out to members of the community and get information from residents so the police did not operate in isolation. He indicated the next meeting would be held in September.

Councilor Anest asked how the members of the council were chosen and he said they had used Facebook. She indicated that people who did not use social media would have no idea how to apply for the council and the Police Chief said he would try in the future to expand into other areas.

Councilor Budrejko asked if meetings were open to the public and the Chief indicated they were not but could arrange to have minutes posted and also given to the Councilors to keep everyone informed. He suggested he could post them at the Senior Center and also on the Town's website. Councilor Nagel asked if there were term limits to the present members and Chief Clark said since the council was in uncharted territory, he would look into it since there might be a lot of people who would want to serve on the Council.

Councilor Manke said the Council was a good idea to better communicate with the public. Councilor Anest said there was currently a Joint Community Safety Committee and wondered if it was time to disband it.

**B. Blight Update**

Jamie Trevethan gave an overview of the current status of blighted properties in Town.

Mayor Zartarian asked how much time she spent on blight and she indicated it depended on the time of year and if the property required a lot of follow up. She said they wanted to work with homeowners to fix the blight and they were encouraged to do so. Mr. D'Amato indicated 75% of the properties involved were residential since most commercial properties had someone charged with maintaining the building.

### **C. Discussion: Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 182: Blighted Premises Code**

Councilor Nagel said the committee had met to revise the ordinance and to define things that needed to be defined since they weren't in the original. The changes had to meet State statutes as well as to help enforcement. Other changes could help the property owner get assistance. Mike D'Amato stated the changes made the ordinance better for the staff and residents as well as making it easier to read by anyone.

The item will be placed on the next Town Council agenda.

### **VIII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS (Action May Be Taken)**

A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

B.

Councilor Anest moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment(s):**

**Town Council Liaison to the Board of Education**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Replaces</b>
<b>NTC Liaison: Beth DelBuono</b>	<b>327 Walsh Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>NTC Liaison: Diana Serra</b>	<b>237 Reservoir Road</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC Term</b>	<b>n/a</b>

The motion was seconded by Councilor Marocchini and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

### **IX. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)**

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,063.78 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra and passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

### **X. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Action Requested)**

#### **A. June 28, 2016 Regular Meeting**

Councilor Anest moved to accept the minutes and was seconded by Councilor Serra. The motion passed 7 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent/Councilor Manke - abstained).

## **XI. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Zartarian received a letter from a resident requesting that the Newington Teen Center be renamed for him and had given supporting documents with it. The Mayor would be referring it to the Facility Naming Committee for action.

## **XII. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Manke reminded everyone it was Recreation and Parks Month and indicated a proclamation would be read at the next meeting. He congratulated them for their 60 years and the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Extravaganza.

Councilor Nagel attended the NCTV picnic where a new President was elected. He said the Town Hall Renovation Committee had met and was in the process of reviewing the feasibility study and took an extensive tour of the building.

## **XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She asked for a status update of the Ethics Committee since several people had resigned and were supposed to issue an annual report, which she did not think had been done. She thought it was important to have this committee in place in case it was needed.

## **IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor DelBuono said the Town Manager's contract had been signed recently. One change was made in the language to allow for a change to be made if an error had been made in the processing of the document.

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. and the motion was seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett – absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council